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TRANSMITTAL FORM <small>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>	Application Number	10/563,200
	Filing Date	January 3, 2006
	First Named Inventor	Herbert GORD
	Art Unit	3643
	Examiner Name	Unknown
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	03/055 K

ENCLOSURES <small>(Check all that apply)</small>		
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Remarks English translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	ProPat, LLC		
Signature	<i>Cathy Moore</i>		
Printed name	Cathy R. Moore		
Date	July 17, 2006	Reg. No.	45,764

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:			
Signature	<i>Claire Wygand</i>		
Typed or printed name	Claire Wygand	Date	July 17, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 03/055K	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/EP2004/007084	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30 June 2004 (30.06.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 04 July 2003 (04.07.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant KALLE GMBH			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Date of issuance of this report 12 June 2006 (12.06.2006)
	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center;">Yolaine Cussac</p> Telephone No. +41 22 338 70 80

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Translation

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
03/055K

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/007084

International filing date (day/month/year)

30.06.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

04.07.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

KALLE GMBH

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/EP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/007084

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/007084

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-21

YES

Claims

NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims 1-21

YES

Claims

NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims 1-21

YES

Claims

NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP0662283

Document D1 is considered the closest prior art over the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 12. It discloses a process and an apparatus for producing a seamless edible casing from extruded cellulose, the casing being passed through two wash lines and one plasticizing line and finally being dried with hot air.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 12 therefore differs from the known process and the known apparatus in that the casing, upstream of the wash and plasticizing lines is transported into a predrier before it achieves its final moisture content in a main drier.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 12 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem to be solved by the present invention can thus be considered to be stabilizing the water-containing casing tube before the final drying sufficiently to

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/007084

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

increase the tube strength.

The solution proposed for this problem in claims 1 and 12 of the present application therefore involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)), since all the documents cited in the search report disclose apparatuses and processes in which a still copiously water-containing casing tube is introduced into the main drier, where it achieves its final water content. Such processes and apparatuses do not have a predrier and stabilization of the casing takes place completely in the main drier.

Claims 2 to 11 and 13 to 21 depend correspondingly on claims 1 and 12 and thus likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.